Mrs. Benjamin Longee,
Exeter, N. H.

Anti. Slavery Office,
New York, March 16, 1864.

41

My Dear Garrison,

I mailed a letter to you on Monday ~~which~~ the same day that yours, received this morning, was written— from which you have learned what is my state of mind in regard to going to Washington with Mr. Thompson. The thought of going was first suggested to me by the announcement that you and he were going together. The motive which influenced me was wholly private and personal, and as cramped as I am for money, the

~~Lauda~~ pleasures promised by such a trip in
your company and that of G. T.
were ~~not too~~ a temptation too great
to be resisted. The announcement that
you would not go so far diminished
my inclination to incur the
expense and inconvenience of the
journey, that, but for Mr. Thompson's
remonstrances, I should have given
the matter up at once. Do not
misunderstand me: the journey in Mr.
Thompson's company alone has strong
~~inducements~~ temptations for me, but still, less than
were presented by the prospect of having
the benefit of your society also and
of witnessing the bestowal of honors
which I know await your presence

at the Capital. If I go now, I shall do so not ~~more~~ so much for my own personal gratification as in the hope of being useful to Mr. Thompson and thereby serving the cause. For that reason I shall not object to Mr. T.'s paying at least a part of my expenses, ~~provided he is able~~ if, as you say, he is able to do so, and he shall consider the service I may render him a fair equivalent therefor. He said nothing, however, on that point in his conversations with me, nor did I hint that my hesitation was in any degree predicated upon pecuniary considerations.

It is quite natural, I think, that Mr. T. should desire to have

an anti-slavery companion in Washington, and desirable every way that his wish should be gratified. But if he is to pay all or a part of the expense, he ought to be free to choose the man. He may prefer somebody else to me, and if so, let him not hesitate for a moment to indicate his preference. But if, in the circumstances, he wants me to go, go I will.

Wendell, generous fellow that he is, has already offered to take care of the Standard for me in my absence.

I need not say how glad I am to hear such good news of Helen. Remember me to her warmly, and to the rest of your household.

Yours, always,

Oliver Johnson.